

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Student Information, Contest Rules, and Guidelines Sheet

Eligibility & Information: Students in grades 6 through 12 enrolled in parochial, private, or public schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to participate in the 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. The National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest is comprised of two levels: LEVEL 1 is for students in Grades 6, 7, or 8 and LEVEL 2 is for students in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Each year a specific theme is specified for the Irish History Writing Contest LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2. Each year specific information, rules, and guidelines are established for the National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest. The information, rules, and guidelines specified for this National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest may differ from those rules and guidelines that specific schools and/or states require for student writing contests.

All student papers submitted to participate in the 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest must adhere to the specific information, rules, and guidelines provided by the National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest.

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Themes:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| LEVEL 1 | Grades 6-7-8 | "The Story of Annie Moore – Irish Immigration to America" |
| LEVEL 2 | Grades 9-10-11-12 | "The Irish and the Building of the American Infrastructure" |

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Timelines:

- Contest Opens September 2010
- Papers are to be submitted to the local Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. Division Irish Historian by January 20, 2012.

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Rules and Guidelines:

Paper Length: **LEVEL 1** – Not less than 500 words or more than 1,000 words
 LEVEL 2 – Not less than 750 words or more than 1,500 words

Writing Style: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition* is to be followed by the writer.

- Make sure to acknowledge all resources that you use as you prepare your paper. According to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition*:
 Plagiarism involves two kinds of wrongs. Using another person's ideas, information, or expressions without acknowledging that person's work constitutes intellectual theft. Passing off another person's ideas, information, or expressions as your own to get a better grade or gain some advantage constitutes fraud. (52)
- You may reference *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition* by going to the Modern Language Association website: www.mla.org

MLA Style Requirements to be used for the National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest:

- Paper is to use double line spacing throughout the paper including the (1) title page, (2) body of paper, (3) quotations, and (4) works cited
- Paper is to be completed using a word processor preferably, but a legibly hand-written papers is acceptable
- Paper is to be printed or hand-written on white paper, single-sided only
- Letter font is not to exceed 12 point if using a word processing software program or double line spaced if paper is hand-written

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Information

Introduction: Each year the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. sponsors a National Irish History Writing Contest for students in Grades 6 through 12 in those states where the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. have established Divisions. The contest is comprised of two levels: LEVEL 1 is for students in Grades 6, 7, or 8 and LEVEL 2 is for students in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. The theme for each contest level is specified each year.

Eligibility: Students who are enrolled in parochial, private, or public schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to participate in the Irish History Writing Contest. Each student entering the 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest should be given a copy of the Student Information, Contest Rules, and Guidelines Sheet as well as a copy of the 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria.

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Themes:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| LEVEL 1 | Grades 6-7-8 | "The Story of Annie Moore – Irish Immigration to America" |
| LEVEL 2 | Grades 9-10-11-12 | "The Irish and the Building of the American Infrastructure" |

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Information:

1. Each student wishing to enter the Irish History Writing Contest is to follow the LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest information, rules, and guidelines established each year. Submitted student work will be judged at either LEVEL 1 (Grades 6, 7, 8) or at LEVEL 2 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12) using the established LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest Information, Contest Rules, Guidelines, and Judging Criteria.
2. Student papers are first submitted to the LAOH Division Historian. Division winners are then forwarded to the County Board Historian in those states where County Boards exist. The County Board Historian then forwards County Board winners to the State Historian. If the state does not recognize the County Board structure, the Division Historian then forwards the Division winners directly to the State Historian. State Historians are to forward State winners to the National Historian.
3. All student papers must adhere to the specified LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest Information, Contest rules, and Guidelines in order to be forwarded to the next level. Although some schools and states may suggest or require students to use specific writing styles and frameworks, all students interested in participating in the LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest must use the published LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest Information, Contest Rules, Guidelines, and Judging Criteria.
4. Each Division, County Board if applicable, and State Board is to establish its own award levels for both LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2 of the LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest. The Divisions, County Boards if applicable and State Boards are encouraged establish their own criteria to determine whether to award a first, second, and third place award for LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2. It is optional at the Division, County Board if applicable, and State Board Level whether or not to establish a maximum of two (2) honorable mention awards.
5. The LAOH Irish Historian at each Level, utilizing a committee of qualified judges (persons with English and History backgrounds), will evaluate all LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2 submitted student works using the LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest Information, Contest Rules, Guidelines, and Judging Criteria established each year and shall determine the winners at the specific level for the 2011-2012 LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest.

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest
Judging Criteria

COMPREHENSION: (1-30 Points) _____

How well does the writer substantiate a thorough understanding of the issues involved in the topic?

How well does the writer clearly distinguish in his/her discussion of the topic the thoughts, expressions, and ideas that are his/hers as opposed to those thoughts, expressions, and ideas of others?

How well does the writer demonstrate his/her ability to grasp the wider implications of the topic?

How well does the writer cite references used?

ORGANIZATION: (1-20 Points) _____

How well does the writer organize his/her thoughts within the paragraphs?

How well does the writer express his/her thoughts in a clear, effective manner?

How well does the writer adhere to the *MLA Style* of writing requirements and the additional style requirements specified on the Student Information, Contest Rules, and Guidelines Sheet?

How well does the writer adhere to the minimum and/or maximum number of words to be used for a LEVEL 1 or for a LEVEL 2 paper?

CONCLUSION: (1-15 Points) _____

How well does the writer's conclusion logically follow from the material presented?

How well does the writer's conclusion convince the reader?

CREATIVITY: (1-20 Points) _____

How well does the writer utilize a variety of references to support his/her topic?

How well does the writer convey a creative approach in addressing his/her topic?

How well does the writer demonstrate an effective command of vocabulary as he/she expresses his/her thoughts?

WRITING: (1-15 Points) _____

How well does the writer use correct spelling?

How well does the writer follow grammar rules?

How well does the writer use effective sentence structure?

How well does the writer use effective transitions to move from one thought to another thought?

TOTAL SCORE: _____

The total score is the sum of the five (5) category scores.